

Remarks/Arguments

Entry of this preliminary amendment is requested before calculation of the filing fee.

Claims 1, 2 and 4 to 7 have been canceled. Claim 3 has been amended to put in independent form. New dependent Claims 8 to 10 have been added – support is found on page 2, lines 19 to 26, page 3, lines 15 to 20, and page 7, lines 20 and 21. The Title has been amended. The Abstract has been rewritten to correspond to the claimed compounds. The specification has been amended and a priority benefit paragraph has been inserted.

Compound Claims 3 and 8 to 10 are believed to be patentable over Thiele et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,702,365). The compounds of Claims 3 and 8 to 10 are not anticipated by Thiele et al. because R^3 in the compounds of Claim 3 is C_{1-6} -alkyl whereas the analogous atom in the compound disclosed by Thiele et al. (column 3, Example 1) is hydrogen. The compounds of Claim 3 are also not rendered obvious by Thiele et al. because the substitution of hydrogen by C_{1-6} -alkyl, or even by methyl alone, results in compounds having completely different chemical properties. The reactivity of the amide bonds of compounds of Claim 3 wherein R^3 is C_{1-6} -alkyl towards attack by a nucleophile is lower than the reactivity of the amide bond of the analogous compound, disclosed by Thiele et al. (column 3, Example 1), wherein R^3 is hydrogen, because a primary amine has a greater electron-withdrawing character and, thus, is the better leaving group as compared to a secondary amine. (See also Jerry March, "Advanced Organic Chemistry," 4th Ed., John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1992, pages 330-335 and

352-356.) Therefore, compounds of Claim 3 can further be converted into their enamines of the formula III by treatment with the nucleophile ammonia (Example 3) without considerable cleavage of the amide bond.

The compounds of Claim 3 are used as additives for fuels for internal combustion engines (page 3, lines 17 and 18) whereas the compound disclosed by Thiele et al. is used for pharmaceutical applications (abstract). Therefore, an ordinarily skilled person looking for new additives for fuels would not consider Thiele et al. to be relevant.

Allowance of the claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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